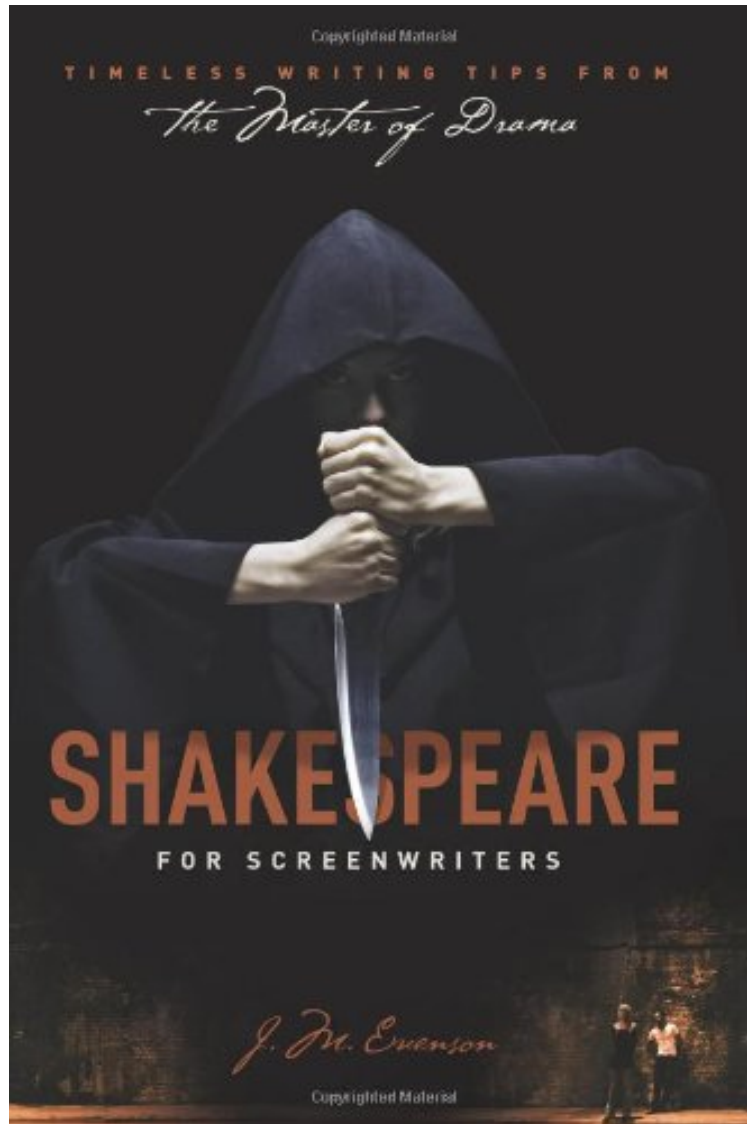


[Mobile pdf] Shakespeare for Screenwriters: Timeless Writing Tips from the Master of Drama

# Shakespeare for Screenwriters: Timeless Writing Tips from the Master of Drama

*J. M. Evenson*

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**J. M. Evenson : Shakespeare for Screenwriters: Timeless Writing Tips from the Master of Drama** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shakespeare for Screenwriters: Timeless Writing Tips from the Master of Drama:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing By Abner Rosenweig Evenson mixes hackneyed story craft advice (show, don't tell; setting is important; make character arcs big) with simplistic analysis of the

Shakespearean plays to produce a shallow book. It's loaded with talking points (e.g. integrate eternal themes such as love and power, and you'll be writing like Shakespeare in no time!), but the author doesn't really make the effort to show in depth how Shakespeare accomplished his feats or to suggest in detail how you, the reader, might do the same. It doesn't feel like Evenson carefully mined the Shakespearean texts to discover new ideas for screenwriters; she just shows how Shakespeare occasionally applied basic storytelling techniques. As a beginners guide to screenwriting, this works fine, but don't expect anything deeper. To the author's credit, the selected film examples are excellent, and there are a few strong chapters (the ones on heroes and villains, and the final two chapters about Shakespeare's writing in general were my favorites). But in the end, I'd look to the great critics (Bradley, Coleridge, Goddard, Hazlitt, et. al.) to discover the real depth of Shakespeare.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Clever, Well-Executed Take on Storytelling for the Screen

By Steve Cuden "Shakespeare for Screenwriters" is a clever, beautifully written and executed look at storytelling through the eyes of the master of all writing masters, William Shakespeare. This book is as revealing as it is astonishing to see the breadth and scope of Shakespeare's influence on pretty much everything we see in movies and TV today. I have read close to fifty books on screenwriting, and I believe J.M. Evenson has done the world of screenwriters a huge favor by shining a light on how motion picture stories can be vastly improved by incisively studying how the greatest writer of drama in history created time, place, character, plot, and conflict in what remains the most brilliantly timeless collection of plays ever conceived. Easy to read and grasp, this is an excellent book for both newcomers to the screenwriting trade and old hands as well. "Shakespeare for Screenwriters" is destined to be a classroom staple.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An accessible analysis of Shakespeare's story devices and conceits - this book is a must have for any serious writer!

By Pops I absolutely love Shakespeare for Screenwriters! This is a comprehensive, incredibly accessible handbook and guide for applying the Bard's greatest dramatic story devices to your own work. As a screenwriter in Los Angeles, I assumed this book would be helpful, but I was honestly blown away by HOW helpful this book really is. After a few pages, I whipped out my highlighter and started marking key passages; a few pages later, I pulled out my computer and began taking notes regarding how I could apply these insights to the script I am penning right now. The book is concise, clearly written, and consistently interesting. You aren't going to find a lot of fluff, backstory, and useless jibber jabber. Evenson deftly analyzes Shakespeare's use of conceits like ironic twists, coincidence, obsessed characters, character flaws and wounds and provides pertinent insights regarding how these devices can be borrowed and applied to your own dramatic writing. Thanks to Evenson for illuminating Shakespeare's genius and translating it into usable, actionable lessons for screenwriters. I'm keeping this one on my bedside table. A must have for any serious writer!

Shakespeare for Screenwriters is the first book to use Shakespeares works to examine the fundamentals of screenwriting. The book offers insight into what makes Shakespeares creations so powerful by analyzing the timeless themes in his greatest works and translating them into practical writing advice. Geared to all levels of interest and experience in both Shakespeare and screenwriting, each chapter focuses on specific lessons learned through reading Shakespeare. William Shakespeare wrote the most powerful dramas in the English language. Shakespeare for Screenwriters tells you how.

"Like having the Bard himself as your writing partner." -- Michael Colleary, writer of Face/Off and Lara Croft: Tomb Raider "Screenwriters seeking to expand their narrative skills can do no better than to consider the Master. Kudos to Evenson for a truly original contribution to this increasingly overcrowded field." -- Richard Walter, Professor and Screenwriting Chairman, UCLA School of Film "Shakespeare for Screenwriters offers golden lessons that can make us all better writers -- no matter what you're working on." -- Susan Hurwitz Arneson, writer on South Park "If you think Shakespeare has no relevance to contemporary filmmaking, you aren't looking very closely. An excellent, concise book!" -- Howard Suber, Professor, UCLA School of Film, and author of The Power of Film

About the Author J. M. Evenson received a Ph.D. in Renaissance literature from the University of Michigan and an M.F.A. from UCLAs famed School of Theater, Film and Television. At UCLA, she was awarded the Harmony Gold Screenwriting Prize and the Women In Film Eleanor Perry Writing Award and won top honors at the UCLA Showcase Screenwriting Contest. As a writer in Los Angeles, she has worked with a variety of studios and production houses, from DreamWorks to Focus Features. An award-winning teacher of Shakespeare, composition, and film, Evenson currently teaches at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.